

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12

DPW-01 AID-20 EUR-25 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /144 W

----- 074946

R 311127 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9444

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5327

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 62, MAR 31

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM DANANG MAR 31

REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE DANANG 0305

1. MILITARY SITUATION:

INCIDENTS ROSE IN MR I TO 25, OF WHICH 21 WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF). FIRST DIVISION TOOK 17 OF THE ABFS INCLUDING 75 ARTILLERY AND 174 MORTAR ROUNDS. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS WAS RELATIVELY QUIET. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE 7 KIA AND 34 WIA (50 PERCENT BY MINES); ENEMY 22 KIA, 1 CAPTURED. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 879 ROUNDS, 646 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS (ALL BY FIRST DIVISION), 233 ROUNDS SOUTH.

2. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY:

INTELLIGNECE REPORTS IN QUANG NGAI INDICATE THAT ELEMENTS OF THE 2 ND NVA DIVISION, WHICH WITHDREW INTO THE MOUNTAINS ALONG THE QUANG NGAI AND BINH DINH BORDER AFTER BEING ROUTED FROM THE SA HUYNH AREA, HAVE NOW COMPLETED THEIR RETRAINING AND REFITTING
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AND ARE AGAIN MOVING EASTWARD TO RESUME PRESSURE ON FRIENDLY TROOPS IN THAT AREA. THE SAME IS BELIEVED TRUE OF ENEMY UNITS SUCH AS THE 30 TH AND 40 TH LOCAL FORCE BATTALIONS IN EASTERN BINH SON AND SON TINH DISTRICTS, WHICH HAVE ALSO AVOIDED CONTACT DURING THE PAST MONTH.

3. GVN MILITARY ACTIVITY:

HUYNH CU, SPECIAL ASSISTANT IN THE CHIEU HOI MINISTRY AND FORMER VC COLONEL, VISITED QUANG NGAI LAST WEEK WITH THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING THE SITUATION AT LY SON ISLAND. CU BELIEVES THAT LY SON, WHICH FOR YEARS HAS BEEN A REPUTED CONNECTION POINT FOR ILLEGAL CINNAMON AND GUN TRAFFICKING, HAS MORE RECENTLY BECOME A REFUGE FOR VC CADRE FORCED BY GVN MILITARY OPERATIONS TO FLEE AREAS IN EASTERN BINH SON AND SON TINH DISTRICTS. CU IS CONCERNED THAT WITH THE ENEMY'S FAILURE TO SEIZE A PORT AT SA HUYNH OR ELSEWHERE ALONG THE SOUTHERN MR I COAST, THE NLF MAY ATTEMPT A POLITICAL TAKEOVER OF LY SON USING THE LARGE NUMBERS OF VCI HE BELIEVES ARE PRESENTLY RESIDING THERE. BECAUSE GVN OFFICIALS ON THE ISLAND HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN UPROOTING THESE CADRE, CU PLANS TO RETURN TO QUANG NGAI IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND ORGANIZE A COMBINED TASK FORCE OF POLICE, CHIEU HOI AND OTHER CADRE TO CONDUCT AN INTENSIVE PSYCO CAMPAIGN ON THE ISLAND.

4. GVN POLITICAL ACTIVITY:

LIAISON OFFICER DANANG REPORTS THAT PEOPLE ARE PRIMARILY CONCERNED ABOUT RISING COSTS OF LIVING AND MANY BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT CADRE OF ALL LEVELS SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ON POLITICAL PROPAGANDIZING AND PROSELYTING TO THE NEGLECT OF THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, SUCH AS SOLVING THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. IN A SIMILAR VEIN, POLOFF QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT TRAN VAN THAN, CHIEF OF PEOPLE'S PROSELYTING BUREAU, HAS INSTRUCTED HIS CADRE TO AVOID TAKING PEOPLE AWAY FROM THEIR WORK TO PARTICIPATE IN NUMEROUS DAYTIME PROPAGANDA SESSIONS, WHICH THAN SAID THEY WERE CERTAIN TO RESENT AS AN UNJUSTIFIED INTERFERENCE WITH EARNING THEIR LIVING. INSTEAD, THAN DIRECTED THE CADRE TO ORGANIZE SMALL, INFORMAL EVENING GATHERINGS. SIGNED BROWN UNQUOTE BENNETT

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REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO QUOTE DANANG 0305
TAGS: PINT, VS
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BIEN HOA
CAN THO
JEC PARIS
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